(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that in the lure of employment, thousands of people are illegally sent abroad by the travel agents;

(c) if so, whether Government would take any steps in order to stop such incidents and bring back the labourers illegally sent abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per the information received from the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, there were a total of 68 Indian workers (37 from West Bengal and 31 from Tamil Nadu) working with a corporate firm in Malaysia, M/s Usra Tampi (M) Sdn. Bhd. Malaysia for over a year. All of them stopped working in April, 2006 due to salary dispute and were staying in the Company's hostel.

With the help of the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur, 33 workers were repatriated to India on 19.07.2006; 4 on 20.07.2006; and 1 on 24.07.2006. The remaining 30 workers are scheduled to reach India on 3.08.2006.

(b) to (d) Sporadic complaints are received about illegal deployment of Indian workers by unregistered recruiting agents. On receipt of such information, the concerned Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) are directed to file FIRs against such illegal agents for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983. Such illegal agents are liable to be punished under Section 24 of the Act with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees Foreign employers involved in such illegal deployments are blacklisted. As and when information is received about such illegal deployment of workers, the Indian Missions arrange for the repatriation of the workers to India.

India's ambitious space programme

*172. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether failure of GSLV-F02 in July, 2006 was a great setback to India's ambitious space programme;

(b) if so, whether this disaster has affected the scientific community and can delay the country's progress in this crucial area;

(c) whether out of 20 scheduled launches between 1979 and 2005, there were only four failures;

(d) whether a Committee has been set up to enquire its failure;

(e) by when the report in this regard is likely to be submitted; and

(f) whether this will not have any effect on future research activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The current failure is only a setback on the GSLV programme.

(b) No, Sir. While there is disappointment at the failure, the scientists are aware of the risks involved in the complex technology and are determined to overcome the problem and continue to work with renewed vigour.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The failure analysis committee that has been set up with experts from ISRO, academia and national research laboratory to ascertain the reasons of failure is expected to submit its findings within one month.

(f) The failure of GSLV-F02 mission will not affect the on-going programmes of ISRO such as Cartosat-2 launch with PSLV-C7, development of GSLV-Mk-III and Chandrayaan-1 programme.

Expenditure on National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

*173. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Himachal Pradesh and other States where National Highways have been constructed during the period from January, 2002 till date alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the number of National Highways proposed to be constructed during the current Five Year Plan, year-wise alongwith the amount proposed to be spent thereon;

(c) the details of two lane and four lane highways in the country at present;

(d) whether Government propose to convert two lane into four lane National Highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The routes of National Highways connecting